

SECRET

8 August 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the Director

VIA: Deputy Director for Operations

FROM: []
Deputy Chief, Soviet/East European Division

SUBJECT: U.S. Person Imprisoned in the Soviet Union

1. As you probably are aware, SE Division has been trying to track down the status of two former CIA agents who were arrested in the Soviet Union in the early 1950's. These individuals are Leonid ZARINS and Nikolai BALODIS. (Subject of memo to [] dated 5 July 1978.)

2. Field investigations now indicate that BALODIS died as a result of a traffic accident in the Soviet Union in 1969. (Information from his sister who lives in the U.S.)

3. However, as of 1977, Leonid ZARINS was reported by an emigre source to be still imprisoned in a camp in Siberia. ZARINS is a U.S. person who legally immigrated to the United States in 1949. He was recruited hereby CIA and dispatched in 1952 on a mission to Latvia on which he was captured. His sister, who is a physician in Berlin, Germany, hears about her brother periodically over the years and was the source of the information that he is still alive.

4. ZARINS appears to hold the sad record of having spent more time in prison than any other CIA agent. He certainly deserves consideration as a part of any exchange arrangement which may be proposed to the Soviets.

CONCUR:

Deputy Director for Operations

Date

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